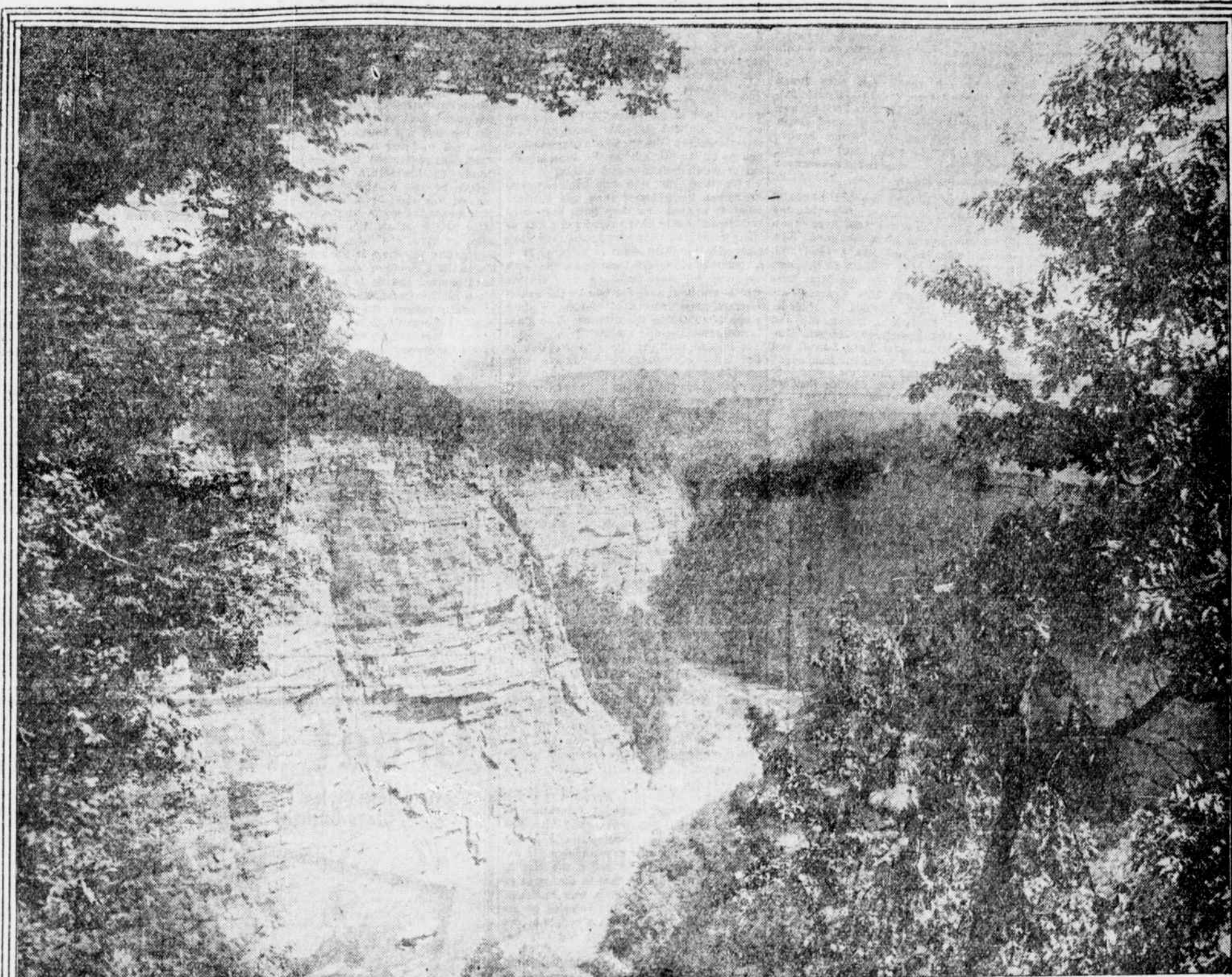


# Charming Letchworth Park To Be a Tree Museum and Forest Laboratory

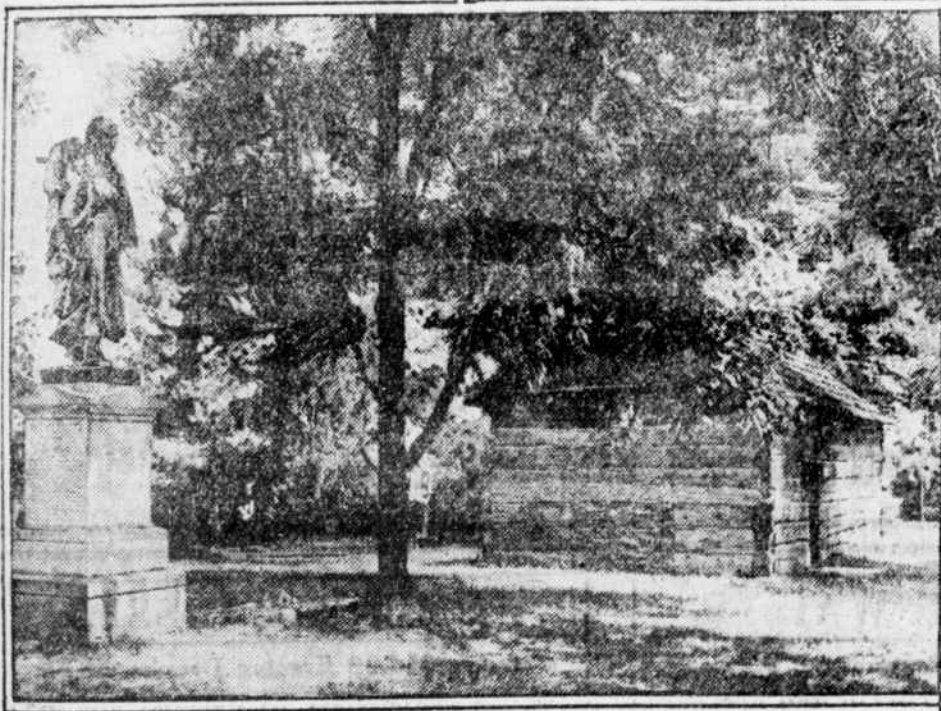
**Slightly State Reservation Near Rochester Will Be Put to Unique and Practical Uses.**

The growing recognition of the need for the practice of scientific forestry in this country is indicated in the decision which has been reached regarding the use to which Letchworth Park, the beautiful 1,000-acre state reservation including the Portage Falls, on the Genesee River, sixty miles south of Rochester, is to be put. It is to be made a thing of use as well as a thing of beauty, and is destined, apparently, to become noted throughout the world of arboriculturists as a forest arboretum. There are other arboreta, but it is believed there is none which can be styled a forest arboretum. The size of the park and the favorable environment for reforestation which is presented make it practicable to grow trees here under forest conditions. Many trees of a species or a variety may be planted together, and their behavior when surrounded by members of their own family observed for the benefit of those who desire to reclothe the nakedness of Mother Earth. Although such an arboretum was proposed for the Biltmore estate of F. W. Vanderbilt, no effort has been made in "tree laboratories" elsewhere to re-create the conditions under which trees intended for lumber or the other purposes of a forest must necessarily exist.

It is thought that 150 acres of trees of different varieties may be planted in 1912, each variety comprising a miniature forest not less than an acre in extent. The development of the trees as individuals and in their relations with one another will then be watched by skilled observers and their observations noted. Each tree will be expected to submit gracefully at regular intervals to measurement for height and for girth. Its health will be watched as carefully as a physician would look after the welfare of a patient with whom he has a contract providing for non-payment of a fee during periods of illness. The liability to disease, the influence of the trees upon the forest floor and all the other elements which enter into the problem of growing trees profitably for utilitarian purposes will be carefully noted and recorded. Thus Letchworth Park will be made to serve the country as a whole in a scientific development of forestry and



A GLIMPSE OF THE PORTAGE GORGE IN LETCHWORTH PARK.



THE INDIAN COUNCIL HOUSE AND THE STATUE TO THE MEMORY OF MARY JAMISON.



A VIEW OF THE PROPOSED ARBORETUM.

On the left is seen the upper fall. In the middle distance is the crest of the second fall and in the background the gorge.



THE MIDDLE FALL IN LETCHWORTH PARK.

An idea of its height may be gained from the summer house on the right.

as a laboratory in which a knowledge of what is practicable and what is impracticable may be gained.

Every effort is to be put forth to accomplish not only this end, but to make the arboretum useful as an object lesson to all who may visit the beautiful park. Everything that will serve to stimulate interest and add to the knowledge of the public regarding forestry and trees is to be supplied. It is proposed to prepare circulars describing in untechnical language the experiments in forestry being carried on for distribution to visitors and to others to whom they would be of value. Labels and placards will be employed to identify the different varieties. Winding forest paths will guide the visitor from one point to another, providing opportunity for the examination of the various groups of trees. These groups will represent the valuable commercial varieties found in the South, in the far West, in Europe and on the other continents which will grow in the soil and the climate found on the banks of the Genesee River.

The park, therefore, will fill a double rôle, that of a museum of living trees and that of a laboratory in which experiments may be made in arboriculture. It is especially well adapted for use as an arboretum owing to the diversity of its natural characteristics and its location. Its canyons, its slopes, its open meadows and its range of elevation present an unusual variety of exposures and climatic conditions. Owing to the

diversity of environment, the experiments will be of service, not only to New York State, but to a considerable portion of the United States. It is proposed to start the trees from seed so that every step in their progress from little citizens of the earth to kings of the forest may be studied.

The park is also to serve the public in other ways. The United States Weather Bureau proposes to locate a weather station there and the United States Geological Survey will establish a bench mark within its confines.

Overton W. Price, a vice-president of the National Conservation Association, who has been assistant forester of the United States for ten years, has been selected to take charge of the work of starting the arboretum. He is a graduate from the forestry school at Munich, Bavaria, and was for nearly three years an assistant of Sir D. Brandis, formerly inspector-general of forests in India.

"It is the purpose of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society," Mr. Price said in speaking of his work there recently, "to plant the estate with forest trees of all varieties, with a view to ascertaining which species are best adapted to such conditions as exist in the valley of the Genesee. Not less than one acre will be planted to each variety chosen, and a careful record will be kept of the growth and commercial value of all species. There are in Letchworth Park to-day some five hundred acres covered with native trees. The remainder of the land will

be planted to conifers and hardwoods from Europe, Asia and North America, under the general management of a competent nurseryman. The necessary stock will be purchased in the open market and from foreign governments. Already great success has been achieved in the growth of Scotch pines and Norway pine and spruce in this country. It is the intention of the society to introduce varieties of woods from all coun-

tries when the climatic and soil conditions are such as to promise success in the transfer of timber from those countries to this.

"The entire estate will not be devoted to forestry. The old Letchworth mansion will be maintained with its lawns and grounds. Scenic roads will be constructed. There will be a deer park and great cages for the accommodation of native birds. The lands used for mead-

ows, pastures and agricultural purposes generally will be planted to trees, but these will not be arranged in formal rectangular bodies. On the contrary, the conformation of the land and its topography will be carefully studied and every effort will be made to make the park as attractive as possible, not only to students of forestry, but farmers and the public generally.

"The purpose is to secure and dis-

seminate all possible information concerning forestry, so as to create sentiment in favor of commercial forestry by the owners of lands. It is expected that the arboretum will prove of enormous value to the student of forestry, and the society will seek the advice and counsel of lumbermen, educators and all others whose advice can be of use. The results, of course, cannot be seen to any great extent for some years to come, but Mr. Dow, who next to Mr. Letchworth, is entitled to the credit for this great work, will spare no pains to make this first great forest arboretum of the utmost importance to the people of the country and especially to those of New York and the states where topographic, climatic and soil conditions are similar."

Letchworth Park, as is generally known, is one of the latest additions to the list of state reservations, being the gift of William Pryor Letchworth, an elderly man of fine qualities who died at his home on the estate, December 1, 1910. For fifty years he gratified his love of the peaceful and beautiful in nature by "collecting" the land on either side of the book of geological history called the Portage Gorge. After spending half a million of dollars protecting this scenic wonder with its three roaring cataracts, its frowning cliffs, dark ravines, shadowy forests and sunny meadows, comparable in New York State only with Niagara Falls, and developing its scenic beauties for the enjoyment of the public, he decided to

dency, about thirty-five miles south of Batavia.

The idea of adding to the forests in the park was in the mind of Mr. Letchworth before he died, and he indicated on a map of the park the areas which he thought might be devoted to trees. These will be followed in the planting as closely as possible. He had, in fact, established an arboretum on a small scale, planting trees himself and inviting distinguished visitors to erect memorials of themselves on the place in the same manner. These trees are carefully labelled and catalogued. In addition there is some primeval forest which owes its escape from the ravaging hand of the lumberer through the difficulty of access to it.

Thus it is proposed to preserve and to make useful this scenic wonder of New York State.

## BRONXVILLE.

The social colony in Westchester County has been planning Lenten diversions. While many will entertain their friends from the city, others have arranged for cruises to the West Indies during the Easter period. A large number of South-entrants are registered at the Hotel Gramatan, Lawrence Park, Bronxville. Among the arrivals at the Hotel Gramatan are Mr. and Mrs. Stafford Talbot, Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. George J. Bates, Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Folger and family, Mr. and Mrs. H. Stimm, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Wooters, Lawrence S. Arnold, Douglas C. Despard, Victor C. Picard, C. O. Hurd, H. E. Hurd, Mrs. Amelia Drake,

## Some News Notes of Interest Gathered from Various Points in Westchester County

Among the affairs which will take place in Westchester County in the near future is the annual ball of Company L of the 6th Regiment, which will be held at the White Plains Armory on Friday evening. It is announced that Adjutant General William Verbeck of the New York National Guard will attend the ball with his staff.

The next event will be the second of the Letchworth assembly dances, on April 12, at the Letchworth Yacht Club. The patronesses will be Mrs. W. M. Oler, Mrs. A. J. Morgan, Mrs. Richard Cohen, Mrs. W. D. Dean, Mrs. H. C. Huntington, Mrs. W. B. Bemis, Mrs. S. T. Hodgman, Mrs. R. Seymour, Mrs. A. H. Johnson and Mrs. Charles Pryor. The committee of arrangements is made up of W. M. Oler, William E. Bemis, Albert J. Morgan, A. R. Seymour and William D. Dean.

Sheriff William J. Doyle has just appointed several new deputy sheriffs, among them being George B. Thurnau, of Greenburg; A. Vinton Sherman, of Rye; and James P. Dunn, of Yonkers. It is also announced that the Sheriff has given up the idea of appointing any women deputies.

A pleasant evening is in store for the members and friends of the New Rochelle Tennis Club. On Wednesday Mrs. Grace Taylor Clark, a dramatic reader and the chairman of study of the Century Theatre

Club, of New York, which club numbers among its members many Westchester women, is to read from and comment upon some of the more recent New York dramatic successes. Miss Vivien Holt, of New York City, will sing. There will be dancing at 10:30. The patronesses of the affair are Mrs. Grifley Adams, Mrs. E. Lyman Bill, Mrs. Francis M. Carpenter, Mrs. Charles W. Demarest, Mrs. Vincent R. Delnoe, Mrs. George F. Eldridge, Mrs. Charles B. Grimes, Mrs. William P. Harding, Mrs. Arthur B. Hanna, Mrs. Stephen C. Hunter, Mrs. E. W. Kemble, Mrs. Edward B. Kemble, Mrs. George La Branche, Mrs. Howard S. Melghan, Mrs. George A. Peek, Mrs. Charles B. Pryor, Mrs. Robert D. Radcliffe, Mrs. John H. Scoville, Mrs. Harry G. Stott, Mrs. C. P. Shumway, Mrs. Frank Tucker, Mrs. L. E. Van Etten, Mrs. William J. Walworth, Mrs. Henry B. Welsh, and Mrs. Charles P. Porter, chairman.

After being paralyzed in his lower limbs for over a year as a result of being shot in the spine while trying to arrest two saloon brawlers, Patrolman Pasquale J. Ruffalo, of Mount Vernon, has been relieved on half-pay. Ruffalo underwent a delicate operation on his spinal cord, which consisted of stitching together a section of his splintered vertebrae, and the hospital surgeons marvelled at his recovery. At one time his body was almost completely paralyzed, but

he is now able to sit up in a wheel chair. There is hardly any feeling in his legs, however.

William Marsh, who was keeper at Police Headquarters, was also retired at the same time. Mr. Marsh is sixty-three years old. He was on duty for sixteen years and when a lad was known as the young marsh and played for Adeline Patti at several of her concerts in Manhattan.

Objections have been filed in the Westchester County Surrogate's office to the probate of the will of Charles Valentine, of Portchester, by his widow, Mrs. Emily Mount Vernon. Mrs. Ring will contend that undue influence was exercised over his wife. Plans are already under way for the annual dinner of the Westchester County Bar Association, which will be held at Delmonico's during the second week of April. Jerome Alford Peck, the newly elected president of the association, has appointed a dinner committee which will make arrangements for the affair. It is expected that among the speakers will be former Senator Chauncey M. Depew and Justices Miller, Keogh and Tompkins. At the annual meeting of the association, held during the week, in addition to electing Mr. Peck as president, the following new officers were chosen: Vice-presidents, Charles P. Egan, of Yonkers; M. J. Tienery, of New Rochelle; Clarence S. Davidson, of Portchester, and William A. Woodworth, of White Plains; recording secretary, Oscar L. Warren, of White Plains; corresponding secretary, Clifford Couch, of Peekskill. There is a plan on foot to make Main street in New Rochelle, a "Great White Way," as suggested by Mayor Waldorf, if

the plans under way are carried out the main thoroughfare of that city will be light as day at night.

The Citizens and Taxpayers' Association has appointed a committee to advocate that all electric light, electric railway and telephone poles be removed from the business streets and all wires placed underground. The committee consists of Henry A. Subrecht, Benjamin Stearns, John L. Mitchell, H. de W. Bodmer and William C. Rainford.

Henry M. Lester, president of the Huguenot Association of New Rochelle, has appointed a committee to act in conjunction with the general committee of fifteen to be named by Mayor Waldorf to arrange for the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of New Rochelle. The committee consists of President Lester, George F. Flandrau, Charles Fryer, James S. Haviland, Walter R. Sloth, Miss Katharine J. Carville and Miss Ethel O. Frahta. The following new members have been admitted to the association: Mayor Frederick H. Waldorf, ex-Mayor Harry E. Colwell, Alderman Harry A. Archibald, Herman Lambden, Mrs. Magdalene Lambden, Henry M. Lloyd, Walter P. Blackwell, James P. Scott, Polham Manor, Samuel N. De Veau, Robert P. Carpenter, Roy L. McCordell, Edward Carson, Robert L.

Forbes, Mrs. Robert L. Forbes, Joseph Claudet, Mme. Eugene Claudet and Alexander H. Davis.

President Lester exhibited at a recent meeting historic legal documents dating back to 1788, bearing old Huguenot names, which have been placed by Mayor Waldorf in the custody of the Huguenot association.

The first definite step taken to solve the water problem in Westchester County has just been made with the appointment of a commission by the Board of Supervisors to investigate the most feasible plan. The commissioners are Arthur W. Lawrence, of Bronxville; ex-Congressman William H. Ryan, of Port Chester, and Franklin K. Brown, of Greenburg. It is announced that they will begin their work immediately, and the supervisors have appropriated \$5,000 for their expenses.

New York City has cut down the local supply so that unless a county plant and supply is secured certain sections of the county will have a shortage of water.

The Westchester County Teachers' Association will hold its annual meeting in the high school building in Ossining on March 2. There will be representatives present from all the schools, including district, village and city schools of the county. Among the speakers will be Dr. George F. Bristol, president of Cornell University;

Dr. Elmer B. Bryan, president of Colgate University, and Dr. William McAndrews, of the Washington Irving High School, of New York City.

OLD POINT COMFORT.

Old Point Comfort, Va., Feb. 12.—Every season this resort becomes more popular with New Yorkers, there being quite a colony of them here at this time, for it is easily reached from New York, either by train or boat, the trip down on any of the Old Dominion boats being an hour. Life has been very gay this week, with numerous tea, luncheon and midnight supper parties at the Officers' Club inside the fortress, given after the Saturday night ball at the hotel. One of the largest supper parties at the club was given by Captain John O. Steger, U. S. A., and Mrs. Steger for the following army officers and their wives: Captain and Mrs. Frederick L. Ferry, Captain and Mrs. Harrison Hall, Lieutenant and Mrs. Maxwell Murray, Mrs. Clarence McNell, Major William Chamberlaine, Miss Jane Hinkley, of New York, and William Jewett.

Recent New York arrivals at the Hotel Chamberlin include Mr. and Mrs. Grant Squires, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Glutz, Francis D. Merchant, George W. Heister, Jr., Winston Road, the Rev. P. A. McNally, Mrs. McNally.